**Indian Recognition to Israel**

322. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to give recognition to Israel in view of the sea-change in the global political scene?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): India accorded recognition to the State of Israel on September 18, 1950.

**National Highways for Improving Trade and Economy of North Bihar**

323. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared or is being considered for a National Highway linking Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj including bridge over Kosi river for improving trade facility and economy of North Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when this scheme will be approved by the Planning Commission and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Proposal for declaration of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj-Purnea road having a length of 310 kms and passing through the State of Bihar as a National Highway is under consideration. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the road will be declared a National Highway as Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

**Sri Lankan Envoy's Talks with Indian Government**

324. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the talks that the Sri Lankan envoy, Shri Vijay Ratne, recently had talks with him and other Government officials;

(b) whether Government were fully satisfied with the assurance given by him with regard to the safety of the Tamilians of Indian origin in Sri Lanka; and

(c) whether any offer was made from our side to send medical help and necessary items of daily use to Tamilian areas if so, what was the Sri Lankan reaction to the offer?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) While Mr. Wijeratne has not visited India recently the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Tilakaratne visited Delhi between 30-6-90 and 2-7-90 to apprise Government of recent developments in Sri Lanka leading to the outbreak of hostilities between LTTE and Sri Lankan forces. He stressed that the present hostilities were not directed against the Tamil community but against "terrorism". Government too note of the assurances given by the Sri Lankan envoy. Government conveyed its concern about civilian casualties and the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Government also conveyed that these developments were leading to an increasing influx of refugees into India and the possibility of third countries getting involved in Sri Lanka. Attention was also drawn to Prime Minister's statement that India will not allow its territory to be used as a base for hostile activity directed against Sri Lanka.

(c) No, Sir.

**Petition for Protection of People of Indian Origin in Fiji**

325. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a petition that has been filed by the "Friends of Indian Society International" and other organisations in